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Here, There and Everywhere

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Dialogue - Japanese

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Kanji | English | Rōmaji | Hiragana | All

A: 今何時だ？

B: １０：１１

A: あの子はまだか。

B: まだ？藤原さんに電話するわ。。。

C: もしもし藤原です。

B: 高橋ですが、すみません。智子はそちらにいますか。

C: いいえ。こちらにはいませんよ。

B: ありがとうございます。

C: はい、失礼します。

B: あの子はどこ？

Vocabulary

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English | Kana | Rōmaji

何時 [なんじ]
what time

電話 [でんわ] — 1 EXAMPLE
telephone
毎日、彼女に電話をする。
I call my girlfriend everyday.

失礼 [しつれい]
Excuse me, Goodbye

どこ [どこ] — 2 EXAMPLES
where
タクシー乗り場はどこにありますか。
Where is the taxi stand?
改札はどこですか。
Where is the ticket gate?

まだ [まだ] — 1 EXAMPLE
yet
私は、まだ、携帯がありません。
I don't have a cell phone yet.

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

Today's grammar points are demonstratives.

Normal	Polite	English
ここ (koko)	こちら (kochira)	here
here ここ (koko)	そちら (sochira)	there
there そこ(soko)	あちら (achira)	over there
over there あそこ(asoko)	どちら (dochira)	where

As mentioned in the lesson, the polite versions with ～ちら・*-chira* are vaguer than their blunt counterparts. For example, こちら・*kochira* can imply "this direction," "this way," or "this area." In Japanese, it is often considered too direct to refer to things specifically, even "here" and "there." Therefore, in polite situations it is better to use the *-chira* forms. そち・*sochira* has the idiomatic meaning of あなたの家族・*anata no kazoku* "your family."

Therefore, we can render the following:

こちら・*kochira* - "this way," "this person," "you" (close to me)
そちら・*sochira* - "that way," "that person," "you" (across from me)
あちら・*achira* - "yonder," "that way," "that person" (way over there)
どちら・*dochira* - "which way?", "which?", "who?"

There are also alternate formations that are very casual:

こちら (*kochira*)	こっち(*kotchi*)
そちら (*sochira*)	そっち(*sotchi*)
あちら (*achira*)	あっち(*atchi*)
どちら (*dochira*)	どっち(*dotchi*)

Examples:

こちらでお支払いをお願いします。
Kochira de o-shiharai o onegai shimasu.
Please pay here.

子供服売り場はどこですか。そちらです。
Kodomo-fuku uriba wa doko desu ka? Sochira desu.
Where is the children's clothing corner? There it is.

そちらにお伺いします。
Sochira ni o-ukagaisimasu.
I will visit you.

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Kanji

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KANJI	READING	MEANING	1ST CHARACTER	2ND CHARACTER
何時	なん・じ	What time	何・What	時・Time
電話	でん・わ	Telephone	電・Electricity	話・Talk
夫	おっと	Husband	夫・Husband	
妻	つま	Wife	妻・Wife	
失礼	しつ・れい	Excuse me	失・Lose	礼・Expression

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